

Dominicans the official inquisitors, seemed to be uncertain as to the probable attitude which the bishops would adopt to this invasion of their jurisdiction, " while the character of his instructions shows that he had no conception of what the Innovation was to lead to." "As yet there was no idea of superseding the episcopal functions." In fact, the mendicant orders supplanted the military orders as papal militia, just as they were later supplanted by the Jesuits, and they very greatly assisted the reorganization of the church into an absolute monarchy under the pope.<sup>1</sup> Frederick II died in 1250. He was the first modern man on a throne. He had aimed to rule all Christendom by despotic methods which he perhaps learned from the Mohammedans. He would have made a monarchy if he had succeeded, which would have anticipated that of Charles V or Philip II by three hundred years.<sup>2</sup> It was the mores of the age which decided between him and the pope. His court was a center of Arabic culture and of religious indifference. There were eunuchs, a harem, astrologers from Bagdad, and Jews richly pensioned by the emperor to translate Arabic works. "All these things were transmuted, in popular belief, into relations with Ashtaroth and Beelzebub."<sup>3</sup> The saying that there had been three great impostors — Moses, Jesus, and Mohammed — was attributed to him, and it appears that his contemporaries generally believed that he first used the statement. The only thing which he left behind was the code of laws which he had made, by way of concession and attempt to buy peace from the popes, by which all civil authorities were made constables and hangmen of the church, to which all dissenters were sacrificed.

256. Formative legislation. In 1252 Innocent

IV issued a  
bull "which should establish machinery for  
systematic persecution as an integral part of the social edifice in  
every city and  
every state." He authorized the torture of  
witnesses. "These  
provisions are not the wild imaginings of a  
nightmare, but sober,  
matter-of-fact legislation, shrewdly and carefully  
devised, to accomplish a settled policy, and it affords us a valuable  
insight into

<sup>1</sup> Burckhardt, *Renaissance*, 3.

<sup>2</sup> Jastrow and Winter, *Hohenstaufen*, II, 298.

<sup>3</sup> Renan, *Averroes*, 288.